

POWERHOUSE RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

POWERHOUSE

Powerhouse is the largest museum group in Australia. It sits at the intersection of the arts, design, science and technology, and plays a critical role in engaging communities with contemporary ideas and issues. Powerhouse is undertaking significant renewal through the creation of Powerhouse Parramatta, the digitisation of the Powerhouse Collection and the revitalisation of Powerhouse Ultimo.

Powerhouse Collection

The Powerhouse Collection includes more than half a million objects of national and international significance and is considered one of the finest and most diverse collections in Australia. Collecting areas include:

- Agriculture and Food
- Architecture and the Built Environment
- Asian Arts and Culture
- Biotechnologies
- Computing and Digital Technologies
- Decorative Arts and Design
- Designing with Country
- Energy
- Engineering
- Fashion and Dress
- First Nations Fashion
- First Nations Astronomy
- Health, Medicine and Wellbeing
- Mathematics and Measurement
- Media and Communication Technologies
- Music, Sound and Performance
- Photography
- Physical Sciences
- Product and Digital Design
- Social History
- Space and Astronomy
- Transport
- Visual Communication



OPPORTUNITY

The Powerhouse Research Scholars Program provides a supportive environment to undertake research related to the museum's collection, or areas of professional museum practice such as education, curation and conservation. The scholars program enables researchers to access Powerhouse resources to support their research over a 12-month period from March 2026 to March 2027. Scholars will initiate and develop collaborative research in interaction with Powerhouse staff.

Research scholars are expected to make a tangible contribution to the museum through participation in the annual Powerhouse Research Scholars Symposium held in March each year. Additional contributions can include presentations at staff meetings, involvement in public programs and exhibitions (venue dependent), amendments to object documentation, publications (written, film, audio) and performance works, or other contributions as agreed upon.

In-kind support and resources

Scholars will be provided with online and in-person access to:

- The Powerhouse Collection, via current exhibitions or through a supervised exploration of the Collection in storage at Powerhouse Castle Hill
- The Powerhouse Research Library and the Powerhouse Archives
- Staff expertise across research, curatorial, conservation, education, programs, digital and media as required
- A workspace in the Research Scholars Room, Ultimo
- Access to the EMu database (the Powerhouse collection management system)
- Participation in the annual Powerhouse Research Scholars Symposium
- Additional potential speaking or profile opportunities in Powerhouse programs, website or other publications

Remuneration

Powerhouse provides a fee of \$5000 to fund material or travel expenses.

Applicants from outside Australia will need to arrange their own visa, however Powerhouse may assist by providing written documentation about your research commitment.

ELIGIBILITY

The Research Scholars program is an open platform designed to support a broad range of disciplines and research approaches. We encourage applications from all sectors, including academic and independent research, as well as established creative practice-based research, which engage with the Powerhouse Collection areas of art, design, science and technology. Please see page 2 for subject examples represented within the Powerhouse Collection.

Powerhouse advocates for research involving First Nations knowledges and cultural material, both tangible and intangible, to be led by relevant First Nations community members and involve First Nations communities and academics in decision-making processes, knowledge sharing and outcomes.

If you have a disability that requires adjustment to the application process or an alternative application pathway, please contact research@powerhouse.com.au.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Your application must include the following:

- Project title (up to 8 words)
- Short project summary (up to 150 words)
- Detailed project description (up to 500 words)
- Proposed aims and outcomes of the research (up to 300 words)
- Proposed benefits to Powerhouse (up to 300 words)
- Selection of up to 10 objects from the Powerhouse Collection, in order of priority, that represent your research and that you would be interested in viewing: <https://collection.powerhouse.com.au/>. Submit the URL link to each object in the application form. Please note that, at times, objects may be unavailable due to conservation, loan or exhibition reasons and you may select alternative objects.
- CV (maximum 3 pages) detailing your education, previous research and work history relevant to your application

Please submit your application via the following form by 5pm 29 September 2025:

<https://maas.tfaforms.net/wf7xakl>

KEY DATES

Applications Open:	7 August 2025
Applications Close:	5pm 29 September 2025
Applicants notified:	December 2025
Project start-up meeting:	February 2026

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss your project before submission please contact research@powerhouse.com.au.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS – APPLICATION PROCESS

1 AIMS

- 1.1 The Applicant wishes to participate in the Research Scholars Program as detailed in the Application.
- 1.2 These Terms and Conditions apply to the Applicant and by submitting an Application to be part of the Research Scholars Program you are agreeing to these Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions are for the period from the date of submission of your Expression of Interest until December of the application year.
- 1.3 These Terms and Conditions are between the Applicant and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (the Powerhouse), ABN 59 354 516 818, incorporating Powerhouse Ultimo, Sydney Observatory Powerhouse Castle Hill and Powerhouse Parramatta (under construction). The Powerhouse is a statutory non-profit body under the administration of the New South Wales State Government and is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Minister for the Arts under the *Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences Act 1945*.

2 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Application or **Expression of Interest** means the proposal for event(s) or program(s) which the **Applicant** has submitted to this web site.

Applicant means the organisation(s) or individual (s) who are submitting this Application or Expression of Interest. Please note that current employees of the Powerhouse are not eligible to apply.

The **Research Scholars Program** means Powerhouse Research Scholars Program Name as shown on the Application or Expression of Interest.

The **Powerhouse** in this document refers to the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences.

The **Research Scholar** in this document refers to the approved person/entity occupying the space as part of the Powerhouse Research Scholars Program.

3 RESPONSIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

- 3.1 The Applicant must provide all necessary detail in relation to their Application in a timely manner. The Powerhouse reserves the right to exclude an Applicant from the Research Scholars Program if incorrect information is provided in the Application.
- 3.2 The Applicant acknowledges that the Powerhouse assumes no responsibility for lost or late application or corrupted digital files.
- 3.3 The Applicant confirms that they are not a current paid employee of the Powerhouse.
- 3.4 The Applicant gives permission for the Powerhouse to use images submitted as part of the Application process in publicity campaigns and in promotional material for the Research Scholars Program at no cost to the Powerhouse.
- 3.5 The Applicant warrants to the Powerhouse that their Application does not infringe any intellectual property rights of any other person (including copyright or design, patent or moral rights). By submitting an Expression of Interest to the Powerhouse, the Applicant agrees to indemnify the Powerhouse from any breach of this warranty.
- 3.6 The Applicant acknowledges that, if successful, they may be required to hold necessary insurances, including but not limited to Public Liability Insurance.
- 3.7 The Applicant acknowledges that, if successful, they will be required to enter a Research Scholars Agreement with the Powerhouse.
- 3.8 The Applicant accepts that if their application does not comply with these Terms and Conditions it will not be considered.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POWERHOUSE

- 4.1 The Powerhouse is responsible for selection of the Research Scholars based on selection criteria.
- 4.2 The Powerhouse is responsible for all publicity and promotion regarding the Application process.

5 INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) (GIPA ACT, S. 54)

- 5.1 The Powerhouse will take reasonably practicable steps in accordance with section 54 of the GIPA Act to consult with the Applicants before providing any person with access to information relating to the Application process of the Research Scholars Program, in response to an access application under the *GIPA Act*.

6 PRIVACY

- 6.1 The Powerhouse will manage the Applicant's personal information in accordance with the Powerhouse Privacy Management Plan.

7 CONFIDENTIALITY

- 7.1 The Applicant must keep confidential all information related to the Research Scholars Program and shall not publicise the Research Scholars Program without prior consultation with the Powerhouse, including via any media without written permission from the Powerhouse.

8 INDIGENOUS CULTURAL MATERIAL

- 8.1 Attention is drawn to the *Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Protocols* document (<https://powerhouse.com.au/governance#policies-and-plans>) and the *Caring for Country Principals* (<https://powerhouse.com.au/stories/country-always>) that provides detail of the 10 guiding principles that underpin the way in which the Powerhouse works with Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and cultural material – both tangible and intangible.
- 8.2 It is expected that all Applicants will operate in compliance with these key policy documents without compromise.

9 GOVERNING LAW

- 9.1 These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of New South Wales and the parties irrevocably submit to the jurisdiction of the Courts of that State.

10 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 10.1 The Applicant agrees by lodging an Application that they have read, understood and accept these Terms and Conditions.